

AMENDMENT TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend claim 1 as set forth in the listing of claims that follows:

What is claimed is:

1. (Currently Amended) A compressor comprising:
a drive shaft, extending along a longitudinal axis, having a first end and a second end;
a swash plate assembly operatively connected to and driven by said drive shaft;
a retainer ring having an elastically expandable inner diameter for disposition about said drive shaft, and
said drive shaft further having:
a first annular groove between said second end and said swash plate assembly;
a second annular groove between said first annular groove and said swash plate assembly; and
a conical ramp extending ~~smoothly and continuously~~ out of said first annular groove toward said second annular groove to cooperate with said elastically expandable inner diameter of said retainer ring for facilitating movement of said retainer ring out of said first groove and along said shaft to said second groove;
wherein each of said first and second annular groove includes a side that is substantially perpendicular to said longitudinal axis and facing said swash plate assembly; and
wherein said retainer ring abuts against one of said sides.
2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) A compressor as set forth in claim 1 wherein said drive shaft has a variable diameter between said grooves.
4. (Original) A compressor as set forth in claim 3 wherein each of said first and said second annular grooves includes a bottom and parallel sides.
5. (Original) A compressor as set forth in claim 4 wherein one of said sides of said first annular groove extends perpendicularly to said longitudinal axis from said bottom thereof to said variable diameter and the other side intersects with said conical ramp.
6. (Original) A compressor as set forth in claim 5 wherein said sides of said second annular groove extend perpendicularly to said longitudinal axis from said bottom to said variable diameter.
7. (Original) A compressor as set forth in claim 6 wherein said swash plate assembly includes a resilient member disposed annularly about said drive shaft and between said swash plate assembly and said retainer ring to provide a biasing force against said retainer ring.
8. (Cancelled)